

October 9, 1975

DLC 75-2595

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Dear Messrs. Chairman and Vice Chairman:

This is in response to your letters to me of August 29, September 11, and September 18 setting forth quotations from various documents which may be used in the Senate Select Committee's proposed report on political assassination allegations. I note also Mr. Schwarz' October 1 letter to the Director of Central Intelligence requesting assignment of individuals to review the Select Committee's draft report for the purpose of alerting the Committee to any security problems that might inadvertently be raised.

The general view of the Executive Branch is that any report on political assassination allegations issued by the Select Committee as an official government document may seriously prejudice our national security through damage to the foreign relations of the U. S. and to the position of the U. S. in the world community. However, we recognize that the Committee intends to exercise its own judgment as to the need and effect of its proposed report and, as the letter of Mr. Schwarz points out, that the Committee is not desirous of involving anyone from the Executive Branch in the merits of the proposed report.

Insofar as you ask for views on particular quotations and on security problems which your report might inadvertently raise, we propose responding to both requests in the following manner. We shall designate representatives from the three agencies principally familiar with the materials which have been shown to your Committee. These representatives will be:

Mr. Thomas Latimer, Department of Defense
Mr. William Hyland, Department of State

Central Intelligence
Agency

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They will come to your office to read the draft assassination report for the purpose of giving their views in regard to particular quotations and in regard to specific security problems. We think that most of these matters

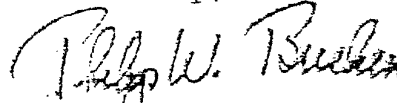
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can be resolved directly by the participants, but if there is disagreement we would expect the specific points in disagreement to be taken up with the heads of the respective agencies.

I have discussed this procedure with Mr. Curtis Smothers who in turn has discussed it with Mr. Schwarz, and I believe it is agreeable with both of them.

The designated persons will be ready to serve you as soon as you call them.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Frank Church
Chairman, Select Committee to Study
Governmental Operations with
Respect to Intelligence Activities
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

The Honorable John G. Tower
Vice Chairman, Select Committee to
Study Governmental Operations with
Respect to Intelligence Activities
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

cc: Mr. Thomas Latimer
Mr. William Hyland

Dr. Albert Hall
Dr. Henry Kissinger
Director William Colby ✓
Mr. Jim Wilderotter

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
 Routing Slip

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Remarks:

Attached received this date.

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